

~~SECRET~~

FOOD

Extracts from CIA-DIA Appraisals

The bombing continues to have a disrupted influence on agriculture and fishing. Reports on the food supply are conflicting. Some reports indicate serious shortages while others suggest that supplies are adequate. In no case, however, have there been reports of severe hunger or starvation or any indication at the present time that the North Vietnamese will not be able to maintain at least the minimum consumption levels.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

On-The-Spot Reports

The next harvest of rice will be mediocre. [REDACTED]

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

Unless immediate action is taken, insects will destroy the spring rice crop. [REDACTED]

Irrigation systems must be improved in order to prevent drought and spoilage of rice. [REDACTED]

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

There did not seem to be much food in the stores and in the restaurants. Outside Hanoi there was only a little meat. [REDACTED]

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

There was an indication of food shortage in Haiphong. As coolies worked with a cargo of soya beans, they were pilfering the beans and eating them raw. [REDACTED]

Ships carrying food stuffs to North Vietnam received preferential treatment. One merchant ship carrying such a cargo completed discharge in about four days after arrival. [REDACTED]

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

A port guard said that soya beans had become a staple in the diet in North Vietnam, and that while the young working population received sufficient quantities of food the older people were rationed to a subsistence level. [REDACTED]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: SEP 2000

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Food (continued)

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

The diet of the Youth Volunteers who have some responsibility for repair work consists of 22 kilos of rice, vegetables, soya nuts, and bananas. In spite of this adequate but limited subsistence, which is of course lower for noncadres, the bombing, and the monotonous work, the traveler was impressed by the health, determination, and high spirits of the population as a whole. [REDACTED]

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

Because the air strikes are affecting the North Vietnamese economy, the fishermen admitted often selling part of their catch on the black market in order to make ends meet, yet avoid serving as coastal shipping laborers despite monetary incentive because of the danger of air strikes. [REDACTED]

(Note that for the first four months of 1967, rice is being imported at a rate which would compensate for the estimated shortage of 300,000 tons in the 1966 rice crop.)

~~SECRET~~